



R & D NEWS



Janet Napolitano, Governor

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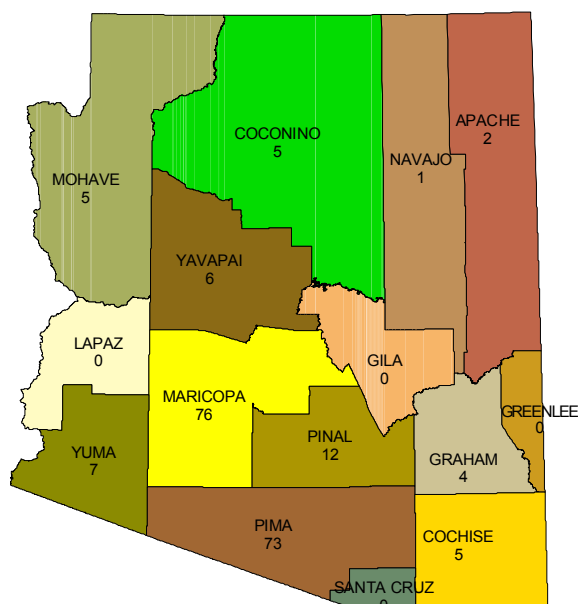
Research and Development

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ADJC PAROLE REVOCATIONS BY COUNTY: CY2002



Francis T. Cullen, *Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs*, in *Crime: Public Policies For Crime Control*, James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia, Institute for Contemporary Studies, 2002.

Professor Cullen provides a brief history of the rehabilitative ideal in corrections with a focus on recent efforts to re-establish its role. He notes that public support for treatment, especially for juveniles, remains high. He also credits Robert Martinson and the “nothing works” movement with providing “...an important and sobering reminder that correctional treatment is a difficult enterprise fraught with many failures.” He conducted a review of the research literature on education, work, substance abuse and sex offender treatment programs. With regard to education and work programs Cullen found three things. First, there is evidence that education and work programs reduce disciplinary problems within the institution. Second, involvement in education and work programs may increase prosocial activities in the community. Third, education and work programs reduce recidivism. Cullen found that

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

How many juvenile suicides occur in Arizona?

education programs seem to provide for a greater reduction in recidivism than work programs. Cullen found support for correctional drug treatment programs reducing recidivism, however, he found little evidence that community-based outpatient programs reduce recidivism among drug offenders. He credits a Canadian group of scholars (Andrews, Bonta, Gendreau and Ross) with providing the justice community with a solid basis for current correctional intervention programs. The Canadian approach is based on six principles. First, rehabilitation programs should use a social psychological perspective on the proximate causes of crime. Second, based on empirical data, we should target for change known predictors of recidivism that are dynamic and not static. Third, cognitive-behavioral programs should be used because they are generally responsive to changing the major criminogenic needs. Fourth, programs should be developed that can be specifically responsive to the learning styles and characteristics of the offenders. Fifth, focus on high-risk offenders. Finally, ensure the intervention programs have therapeutic integrity. According to Cullen, “effective intervention must be based on more than good intentions; it must reflect good science, good policy and good practice.”

Ghosts from the Nursery: Tracing the Roots of Violence, Robin Karr-Morse and Meredith Wiley, Atlantic: 1997. Karr-Morse and Wiley use the phrase *Ghosts from the Nursery* to express the idea that violent criminals, who were once infants in our communities, are “always accompanied by the spirits of the babies they once were together with the forces that killed their promise.” The authors contend that the American culture is not a child or family oriented one. Indeed, the authors contend that we overlook the significance of the gestation, birth and infancy periods because we think it is irrelevant, not only to a particular crime, but to all later behaviors. Their thesis is the “nine months of prenatal development and the first two years after birth (33 months) harbor the seeds of violence for a growing percentage of American children.” They argue that who we are is not just a result of the interaction of nature and nurture, but also the interaction between our basic temperament and parental responses. An infant that becomes upset and is regularly comforted, produces a map in their head that allows them to anticipate that comfort and to also generate it her/himself. An infant that becomes upset and is not regularly comforted, on the other hand, is prevented from producing that map and does not learn to modulate strong feelings of fear or anger.

The MacArthur Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice, Thomas Grisso and Laurence Steinberg, www.mac-adoldev--juvjustice.org, The purpose of this study was to examine the psychological competence of youthful offenders. They found that many juveniles under 16 years old, had as much difficulty grasping complex legal proceedings, as adults who had been ruled mentally incompetent to go to court. The Grisso and Steinberg study included 1,393 participants from California, Florida, Pennsylvania and Virginia that were between 11 and 24 years old. Among other things, the subjects were examined relative to their future time perspective, risk perception and resistance to peer influence. The participants were provided a series of vignettes and their understanding was examined relative to such things as: roles of defense and prosecution attorneys, role of the judge, and the consequences of pleading guilty and conviction. Their study found that juveniles who were 14 and 15 years old were twice as likely as young adults to be “seriously impaired.” Also, juveniles of below average intelligence i.e., IQ less than 85, were more likely to be “significantly impaired.” Age and intelligence were the only significant predictors of performance on their tests, with no variation observed as a result of gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background. The authors recommended that states consider implementing policies designed to ensure that young defendants rights to a fair trial in adult court are protected, which may mean requiring competence evaluations for juveniles below a certain age.

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER

According to *Arizona Parenting* magazine, Arizona has the second highest (18 per month) suicide rate in the country. Lack of support systems aggravated by drug and alcohol abuse play a large role in teen suicides, according to *Arizona Parenting* magazine.